

August
2008



CITY OF WICHITA

Neighborhood Services

Neighborhood Services— just around your corner

Neighborhood Services is a unit of the City Manager's Office and is dedicated to working on the problems in the community that require collaboration across City departments.

The Neighborhood Services team brings together people from different City departments to handle citizen complaints and other problems that affect quality of life in Wichita. While much of the work of Neighborhood Services comes from referrals from City Council, City departments, residents and businesses, the division also tries to identify emerging problems before they become more serious.

Experience has shown that by working with residents to resolve seemingly small problems, we can improve life in Wichita neighborhoods. A key job of Neighborhood Services is to maintain clear communication lines between neighborhood groups and City Hall. By linking Wichita residents with City officials, Neighborhood Services helps further the City of Wichita's goal of responsive and transparent government.

In many cases, Neighborhood Services helps create and foster small communities. Within blocks, neighborhoods, and communities, groups of people come together to improve, sustain, and celebrate healthy living. Neighborhood Services is here to support, acknowledge and direct such groups through services, education and communication. You can find us just around your corner at any Neighborhood City Hall.

District Advisory Board 2009-2010 City Manager Budget Proposal Presentation

On Thursday, July 24th the Department of Finance hosted a public meeting on the 2009-2010 City Manager Budget Proposal for District Advisory Boards (DAB) and the general public. Members of each of the six DAB groups were invited to attend and ask questions or raise concerns about the 2009-2010 Proposed City Budget. Members of the public were also encouraged to attend and address City staff with questions. David Warren, Director of Water Utilities, also gave a brief presentation about a water rate increase.

Questions were raised about several issues and projects including the funding of park and recreation positions and services and cultural arts funding. The Finance staff was commended for its hard work in putting the budget together and presenting Council with another year of no increases in taxes.

Neighborhood Services staff was involved in planning the event through date selection and DAB invitations, and staffing the event through assisting with seating, and the question-and-answer session. The Neighborhood Services Division can be extremely helpful in making such meetings a success.

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"Neighborhood Services is committed to providing your group or department with important information.

Please distribute this information to your co-workers and peers."

District I/Atwater Neighborhood City Hall News

LaShonda Porter, Neighborhood Assistant-lporter@wichita.gov

During the 2nd Quarter of 2008, Atwater served 12,900 residents. 2nd quarter projects included:

The Neighborhood Pride Campaign: The Neighborhood Pride Campaign is designed to recognize individuals who exhibit Neighborhood Pride within START boundaries of 13th to 17th and Grove to Poplar. This program was implemented to keep the momentum of neighborhood revitalization going as START moves from one area to another. The START team will identify two residents each month for exemplifying neighborhood pride.

Atwater Neighborhood City Hall Extended Hours: In an effort to meet the needs of the community, Atwater Neighborhood City Hall has extended its hours. Extended hours are 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Monday– Thursday; 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Friday; and 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Saturday. In addition Atwater offers evening computer classes, workshops, and more. Stop by to see what's available for you.

Real Men, Real Heroes: The City of Wichita, Atwater Neighborhood City Hall and Real Men, Real Heroes (RMRH) has kicked off an official partnership. The partnership allows city staff to work with RMRH to address some of the mentoring needs of youth. This partnership is unique and will prove to be extremely beneficial to the community. To learn more about Real Men, Real Heroes, visit their website at www.realheroeswichita.org or www.wichita.gov

Basketball Camp: Atwater NCH, the Wichita Police Department, Wichita Fire Department and The Lynette Woodard Recreation Center hosted a one-week FREE basketball clinic from August 4th – 7th at The Lynette Woodard Recreation Center.

Write Away Journalism Exploration: Free for ages 12 to 18. The Community Voice & the Atwater NCH will host a 6-week journalism class that will introduce the children to the basics of journalism. Classes are from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. every Thursday starting July 24th at Atwater NCH.

Community Unity Day: The 7th Annual Community Unity Day event is coming soon. The event is scheduled for Saturday, September 13th at the Atwater Neighborhood City Hall. This year's event will be full of fun and excitement. More information coming soon!

District 1 Reoccurring Meetings: District 1 Advisory Board meeting – 6:30 p.m. , 1st Monday of the month at Atwater NCH. District Breakfast– 8:00 a.m. 1st Saturday of every month at Ryan's 3323 N Rock Road.

District II News

Antione Sherfield, Neighborhood Assistant– asherfield@wichita.gov

There are several exciting projects in the works in District II.

The National Center for Aviation Training at the Jabara Campus. The City of Wichita contributed approximately \$1.6 million dollars to secure the use of Jabara Airport land for this important project. The training center will ensure that local aviation companies have enough skilled workers to meet future demands. The facility is scheduled to be completed in 2010.

Preserving open green space for future parks. The City of Wichita recently acquired two properties in District II for potential parks. It is an important step because research indicates that quality park and recreational spaces stimulate economic development.

Safety improvements to Douglas and Oliver. District II is committed to preserving historic parts of the District including the Lincoln Heights Shopping Center while making significant improvements to the Douglas and Oliver intersection.



The Adopt a School @ Clark Elementary Project. District II will be in its second semester working with at-risk students at Clark Elementary. The Adopt Clark Elementary Project was extremely successful in its first semester evidenced by providing mentoring, school supplies, and other support to the students and staff at Clark Elementary. If you would like more information about the Adopt Clark Elementary Project or to make a contribution, please contact Antione Sherfield at (316) 268-4197 or email him at asherfield@wichita.gov.

District III/ Colvin Neighborhood City Hall News

Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Assistant-jjohnson@wichita.gov

District III Construction Projects: Work continues to move forward on the Gyp Creek flood control projects. The Hillside Bridge reconstruction should be completed and Hillside will open by the end of August. Construction of Mt. Vernon Street, between the river and Broadway, has begun. At times, there will be no left turn allowed from Broadway and traffic will be limited to a single lane during the construction. A well-attended groundbreaking for Fire Station 22 occurred on Saturday, June 7, at Denker and Hydraulic, and the contractor is now moving dirt. The property located at Mt. Vernon and Bluff, which was purchased as a part of the flood control voluntary buy-out, will soon feature walking paths, benches and picnic tables. The new basketball court at Stearman Park in Planeview has been completed.

Revitalization: The START (Stopblight Action Response Team) Project is in full swing in Hilltop. The initial assessment has been conducted and more than 20 citizens attended the first community meeting. The Office of Central Inspection and the Wichita Police Department are planning a sweep of inoperable vehicles in the Planeview area.

The sweep is one component of a comprehensive plan to address violence in the neighborhood.

Events: The Park and Recreation Department will host a Community Resource Forum from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday August 7th at the Hilltop Community Center, 1329 S. Terrace. Free immunizations will be given to children under 18, and free visual and dental screenings will also be available. The next District III brunch is slated for 11 a.m. on Saturday, August 23, at Furr's Cafeteria, 1606 S. Georgetown.

District IV/Stanley Neighborhood City Hall News

Kelli Glassman, Neighborhood Assistant- kglassman@wichita.gov

Stanley Neighborhood City Hall, Stanley Elementary and others are partnering to host a **Community/ School Health Fair** focused on Childhood Obesity in early fall 2008. City of Wichita staff and USD 259 staff are working closely to provide Stanley families and area residents the opportunity to learn more about healthy lifestyles, opportunities and resources available to them in their community.

Thanks to the support of the neighborhood associations, other citizens and City staff, District IV has had several successful **neighborhood clean-ups** this summer making great improvements to neighborhoods. These clean-ups were especially beneficial to those disabled and elderly citizens who were assisted through coordination of clean-up services by staff and neighborhood association officers.

The **District IV Advisory Board** will enjoy a night at the Wingnuts game via the City of Wichita skybox August 7 in appreciation for their service to the board over the past year.

District V News

Megan Buckmaster, Neighborhood Assistant- mbuckmaster@wichita.gov

Council Member Longwell has been busy with **speaking engagements** throughout Wichita. In May 2008 he hosted his inaugural District V Town Hall meeting at Northwest High School. There were approximately 30 citizens in attendance and topics ranged from flood control, to road improvements to City Council issues including the city manager search, the smoking ban and arena development. Also in May, Council Member Longwell addressed a group at Resthaven Cemetery on Memorial Day in honor of the Nation's Veterans. In June 2008 he addressed the graduates, friends and family members at the Fire Department's Spring 2008 Recruit Class Graduation Ceremony. In July 2008, Council Member Longwell had lunch and shared City and District Information with the West Wichita Optimist Club. In August he is scheduled to speak to the Plaza West Retirement Community and the Kiwanis Club.



The **Bob Martz Clubhouse Dedication and Golf Tournament** was a huge success. The tournament raised \$4,000 for the Wichita Junior Golf Association and there were 18 hole sponsors and more than 36 teams. The event was attended by Mayor Brewer, members of the City Council, Congressman Todd Tiahrt, Sandy Martz, wife of late Council Member Bob Martz, and family and key City Staff and citizens.

District VI/Evergreen Neighborhood City Hall News

Terri Dozal, Neighborhood Assistant- tdozal@wichita.gov

Martha Sanchez, Community Educator - msanchez@wichita.gov

The **Evergreen Summer Activity Camp for Kids (ESACK)**, had a successful second summer. Approximately 80 youth, ages 6-13 years, met for eight weeks during the months of June and July. The City of Wichita Neighborhood Services Division partnered with the Wichita Public School District to provide space at Cloud Elementary for the camp.

Other partnerships included City Library, providing a summer reading program; CityArts, providing art projects; Park and Recreation, providing swim lessons and facilities; WPD- Latino Police Officers, who sponsored the family picnic; and the Sedgwick County Extension Office, who offered a gardening class with Master Gardeners and a nutrition cooking class.



Other activities at camp included field trips and projects supported by the Boys and Girl Scouts; An art instructor supported by the Foster Grandparents program; "Girl Power", a program for middle school girls offered by the Wichita Sexual Assault Center and Youth Workers provided by the Summer Youth Employment program.

Throughout the camp there were weekly field trips to surrounding recreational centers and guest speakers. The children enjoyed daily activities such as gym, arts, gardening, nutrition, outdoor exercising, reading, swimming and quiet time.



NORTHEAST: The **North East Activities Camp 4 Kids (NEACK)** was eight weeks of fun, learning and fieldtrips for 125 participants ranging from kindergarten to 8th grade. During the eight week summer camp, Wichita Public Schools provided elementary-and middle-school teachers to help keep the participants learning through the summer. They concentrated on reading and math skills using fun activities, interesting books and games to encourage them. Campers also enjoyed lively games, cook crafts, cooking classes, "Wiz Week" with the National Society of Black Engineers, projects with the Girl Scouts and field trips to swim, ride rides, skating and bowling. The camp is a partnership of the Atwater Neighborhood City Hall, Community Education Northeast and Lynette Woodard Recreation. The camp ended on Friday, July 25th with a pizza party, an outing to Fairmount Park to splash in the water, prize giveaways, and everyone received a school supplies starter kit and a free book to read for the summer.



Learning Coaches Needed! The **City of Wichita Community Education Northeast** and the **Children and Youth Roundtable** is partnering with the **Bulldogs Football League** to provide academic and character enrichment activities for players. They are looking for volunteers to sign up to be Learning Coaches to help teach, lead character building activities, or help prepare snacks Monday through Thursday July 28th and continuing through October 10th. The time table for the tutoring and mentoring is 5:00pm – 6:15pm (there is a late start session at 5:30pm) at the Atwater Neighborhood City Hall. **"Our mission is to jumpstart these players into a successful school year by providing support through their first semester while they practice and play football. In a unique way we will relate what they are learning in academics to what they are learning on the field. Every completed assignment is a yard closer to the goal of a good grade."**

Those who are interested can call 303-8017 or email gharris@wichita.gov to receive a form by mail or email. Portions of this program have been generously funded by Spirit Aerosystems, Inc.

SOUTH: The **Planeview Activity Camp for Kids (PACK)** was back for the sixth year in Planeview for area youth K - 8th grade. The program began on June 2nd and ended on July 25th and had daily attendance of about 90 youth.

Colvin Elementary School was the site for the K-4th grade program. Activities included academics, cooking lessons, art and crafts project, library time, Boy Scouts, playing games in the gym, field trips and many more. Grades 5th through 8th meet at Jardine Middle School. Their activities included academics, Robotics, cooking, CSI (Crime Scene Investigation) activities, lawn mowing & babysitting clinics and field trips. Both groups enjoyed playing soccer with the Community Policing Officer Steve Jerrell and other WPD volunteers.

Support from the community was wonderful. Donations came from several area businesses, including Davis Moore, Blockbuster Videos and the Bicycle Exchange. Coleman provided coolers, camping equipment and monetary support. Maureen Connelly provided a tennis instructor, lots of volunteers, new tennis racquets and monetary support. Prizes were collected for distribution as attendance incentives and bi-weekly door prizes.

The big finale was a family picnic at the north shelter in Planeview Park on July 25th where WPD cooked hot dogs & hamburgers for the kids and their families. Prizes included soccer balls, tents, sleeping bags, two MP3 players, two portable DVD players, and one super grand prize, a Wii donated by Community Policing Officer Steve Jerrell. Every child walked away with at least one prize. Special guests included: Council Jim Skelton and family, Assistant City Manager Cathy Holdeman, Chief of Police Norman Williams and many others.



This program was hosted and presented by Colvin Recreation Center, Colvin Neighborhood City Hall, Community Policing and USD 259. A special thanks to all those who helped make our program a success: Blockbuster Video, Dick's Sporting Goods, Davis Moore, Coleman, Bicycle X-Change, Fraternal Order of Police Wichita Lodge #5, Rick Rice Investments, Planeview Neighborhood Association, Maureen Connelly Tennis Foundation, Allen-Lee Screen Printing, Sedgwick County Extension, Pure & Simple Lifestyles, Colvin Library, Music Theatre

for Young People, CityArts, Wichita Public Library and program staff,— Thank you very much!

NORTHWEST: See Evergreen Neighborhood City Hall/ District VI